

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03126 011928Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----033840 011931Z /50  
O 011730Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0741

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3126

EXDIS

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), PA  
SUBJ: TODMAN VISIT - PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

REF: ASUNCION 2980

1. AS MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR YOU TO DELIVER A PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER, IN EFFECT URGING THE LATTER TO ALLOW THE IAHRC VISIT TO TAKE PLACE. TO HAVE MAXIMUM IMPACT, THE LETTER SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF SUCH A VISIT. A SUGGESTED DRAFT FOLLOWS:

QTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THE BEARER OF THIS LETTER IS MY GOOD FRIEND, AMBAS-  
SADOR TERENCE A. TODMAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS. AS SUCH, HE IS MY PRINCIPAL  
ADVISER ON MATTERS INVOLVING THE NATIONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE,  
AND I AM DELIGHTED HE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET WITH YOU  
AND WITH SENIOR MEMBERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN ASUNCION.  
HE BRINGS YOU MY MOST CORDIAL GREETINGS, TOGETHER WITH  
MY SICHES FOR THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS OF  
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THE PARAGUAYAN PEOPLE WHOSE QUALITIES ALL AMERICANS SO  
GREATLY ADMIRE.

IN YOUR GRACIOUS LETTER TO ME ON THE EVE OF MY  
INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA, YOU NOTED THAT PARAGUAY HAS IDENTIFIED ITSELF  
WITH MY COUNTRY THROUGH A "FIRM POLICY OF REPUDIATING  
ANY SYSTEM WHICH DENIES THE FUNAMENTAL RIGHTS OF MAN..."

THIS IS A SENTIMENT WHICH STRIKES A RESPONSIVE CHORD WITH MY COUNTRYMEN WHO HAVE RECENTLY RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF PROMOTING UNIVERSAL OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR TRADITIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS WE HAVE ASSUMED THROUGH MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

AS A RESULT OF A MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICE AND FROM THE CORDIAL EXCHANGE I HAD WITH YOUR AMBASSADOR, DR. MARIO LOPEZ ESCOBAR, IN APRIL, I WAS MOST ENCOURAGED THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO ACCEPT THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PROVIDED, AS AMBASSADOR LOPEZ SAID, ITS COMPOSITION WERE SUCH AS TO ENSURE ITS IMPARTIALITY. I APPLAUD THIS POSITION BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE IAHRC, WHOSE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN, DR. ANDRES AGUILAR, IS KNOWN FOR HIS IMPARTIALITY, WOULD SERVE TO PROTECT PARAGUAY'S GOOD NAME AND INTRODUCE AN ELEMENT OF BALANCE AND PERSPECTIVE TO WHAT OTHERWISE WOULD REMAIN ONE-SIDED ALLEGATIONS. FURTHER, IT COULD IN THE END SERVE THE INTERESTS OF OTHER STATES OF THE REGION, SINCE IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THEIR FEAR OF THE IAHRC IS UNWARRANTED, AND WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO PERMIT THE IAHRC TO VISIT THEM AS WELL AND GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO SHOW THAT THEIR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IS REAL.

BECAUSE MY GOVERNMENT PLACES SO MUCH IMPORTANCE  
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ON THIS MATTER, I HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR TODMAN TO PURSUE IT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS IN ASUNCION, AND SHALL AWAIT HIS REPORT WITH GREAT INTEREST.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING. UNQTE

2. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS.  
LANDAU

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** OVIP, PA, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)  
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